

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents,

Thanks for visiting today and entrusting the care of your child(ren) to Cornerstone Kids (CK) over the next hour. Your kids will be loved, protected and pointed to Jesus Christ as their chief good and hope.

Cornerstone Kids aims to build a great city through the gospel by partnering with parents to cultivate children that genuinely enjoy God, redemptively engage the city, and reach the world. Children are a blessing from God and parents are called to be His primary agents of love, protection and instruction (Dt. 6:7-9). We want to help you, not replace you.

This introductory packet will, we hope, mark the beginning of that relationship. Included herein you will find information on our philosophy of kids ministry, how volunteers are screened and trained, further resources for parents, and what you can expect your kids to learn week-to-week.

Each week, after the gathering, you will receive a handout with a summary of the lesson and takeaways for the kids. We want to make this easy for you.

As you get acclimated, we'd love for you to consider joining the CK volunteer team. For safety purposes all volunteers must participate with Downtown Cornerstone for a minimum of three months. But, if you're interested, please let us know and we'll get the process started.

Lastly, we're always open to suggestions on how to better cultivate Jesus-loving, gospel-centered, Bible-saturated children in a challenging context (i.e. the city). Let us know if you have any great ideas.

For Jesus' Fame,



Adam Sinnett
Lead Pastor, Downtown Cornerstone

WELCOME

Thanks for checking out Cornerstone Kids! We love your children and consider them a blessing from God, and it is our prayer that you would deeply invest in them so that they may place their hope in God. We are committed to partnering with you to joyfully teach, show, and model who God is and what He has done for us through the person and work of Christ. Moreover, it is our desire that every child in Cornerstone Kids may live to love Him, glorify Him, and bring hope to the next generation. Below are the foundational principles that we are devoted to in order to provide excellent age-appropriate discipleship and evangelism to your children.

VISION

The vision of Cornerstone Kids is to build a great city through the gospel for the Glory of God by partnering with parents to cultivate children that genuinely enjoy God, redemptively engage the city, and reach the world.

VALUES

Jesus. We open our Bibles to learn about Jesus, the Hero of our lives, and talk about Him together.

Gospel. We assist parents to raise up gospel-centered kids who understand the gospel and its implications in all of life by teaching who God is and what He has done for us in Christ.

City. We look to bless the families outside our communities and train up servant-hearted kids that will participate in the life of our city.

Church. We're a diverse family brought together by the gospel, and we seek to strengthen the family through age-appropriate discipleship for kids while resourcing and equipping parents and caregivers.

Mission. We assist parents and caregivers as the primary disciple-makers of their kids to make disciples who take the gospel to the next generation.

Renewal. We work to restore and equip urban families through the work of the gospel in love to our city.

Multiplying. We seek to multiply Jesus-following kids and families that they may bring hope to the next generation throughout the city - and world.

PARTNERSHIP

We believe that God intends for parents and caregivers to be the primary instruments of discipleship in their child's life (Deut 6:6-7; Prov 22:6; Eph 6:1-4). Parents disciple and lead their children to Jesus, and we partner by encouraging and resourcing throughout the week, using Sunday gatherings to compliment and propel the disciple-making process.

Q: How will I be resourced to disciple my child throughout the week?

You will receive a handout for each lesson to help you throughout the week. Additionally, we will provide resources and suggestions periodically on The City.

Q: I need a little more help with this discipleship stuff, can you help me out?

That is what we're here for! Please talk with us after the Sunday gathering or email us at kids@downtowncornerstone.org with any questions. We are one family in Christ, and we are here to partner with you.

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

We want kids to grow up setting their hope in God and expressing it in worship through song (Col 3:16). We joyfully sing songs of worship to Jesus, creating an environment where kids are free to express themselves in praise.

COMMUNITY

Children, like adults, desire community. Cornerstone Kids attempts to cultivate lifelong gospel-relationships between the adults and children who meet together on Sundays and throughout the week. Moreover, parents have the opportunity to connect and further resource each other throughout the week online through the Cornerstone Kids group on The City.

Q: Can I use The City to update other families on events around the city of Seattle?

Yes! Please do, we want the online network to be a place where parents can interact!

PRAYER

We want to help cultivate in the children a fervent, dependent prayer life that they might understand from a young age that God is personally invested in them and hears their every petition. Every Sunday, we set aside specific time for corporate prayer while volunteers also pray over each child. As a team, we are committed to praying for God to work in your family throughout the week.

Q: How do you implement prayer on Sundays?

We engage each age group in prayer differently, growing in prayer with them over time. Volunteers pray over 1 and 2 year olds, and we invite kids into prayer with us as soon as they are able. With 3 and 4 year olds we focus on learning to pray together with the help of volunteers or on their own as they're comfortable. With 5 to 8 year olds, we each take turns praying and work on seeing the way God answers and uses our prayers.

VOLUNTEERS

We have carefully and prayerfully chosen volunteers who are committed to faithful, accountable gospel living and can serve as role models for the children. Every volunteer has submitted to a personal interview with Cornerstone Kids leads, background check, spiritual inventory, and ministry covenant. Moreover, we are committed to provide our volunteers with on-going training and resources to cultivate the best possible environment for children to grow in their faith journey.

Q: Can I volunteer in Cornerstone Kids?

YES! We'd love to have you with us. However, we ask that you be known in community and gathering with Downtown Cornerstone for at least three months. We ask all volunteers to serve for a minimum of six months. Email kids@downtowncornerstone.org for more information.

CURRICULUM

Currently, we are utilizing the Gospel Story curriculum for older kids, with slight modifications to fit our context. This curriculum is viewable upon request. It is a faithful guideline in teaching children the story of Jesus chronologically through the Bible. Please feel free to ask us for more details and family resources. For the younger kids, 2 and under, we are using Children Desiring God. Learn more at www.childrendesiringgod.com

THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

All that we teach aligns with the Downtown Cornerstone Statement of Faith (available online).

REGISTRATION

If you know your family will be joining for a Sunday gathering, you can fill out an online [form](#) to pre-register your kids into our database. Upon completion of this form, your children will be added and check-in on Sunday should be quicker for your family. When you arrive, simply stop by the welcome desk and we'll help walk you through the regular check-in procedures at a Self Check-in station.

SUNDAYS

Cornerstone Kids is provided for children ages six months to eight years old and opens 15 minutes prior to each gathering. As you enter the Cornerstone Kids gathering space, a volunteer will be ready to help you check in your child. Our time together will consist of a brief Bible lesson, song, intentional play, Scripture memory, prayer, and craft creation.

Q: How do I prepare my child for Cornerstone Kids gathering?

We suggest having an intentional conversation and praying with them about what they will be required to do in Cornerstone Kids and how they are to obey their teachers, so their hearts can be prepared to hear from the Lord.

Q: What is Downtown Cornerstone's wellness policy?

We ask that sick children do not participate with Cornerstone Kids in order to ensure the health of children and volunteers. The Committee of Control of Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a child should not leave home when any of the following symptoms exist:

- Cloudy mucus
- Fever (over 100.5 degrees)
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Any symptoms of childhood diseases such as scarlet fever, measles, mumps, chicken pox, or whooping cough
- Common cold - from onset through one week
- Sore throat
- Croup
- Any unexplained rash
- Any skin infection - boils, ringworm, or impetigo
- Untreated pink eye or other eye infections
- Any communicable disease
- Lice, including the presence of eggs or nits

These are the guidelines that we follow and we ask that a child or volunteer be free of fever for 24 hours before entering the nursery. We do not dispense any medication to a child. If a child appears to be ill we will notify the parent immediately.

Q: What should I do with my child's diaper bags, coats, drinks, etc.?

We can store any items you would like us to hold on to for you in case your child needs them, however we'd encourage you to keep diaper bags and your children's other items with you.

Q: Who can pick up my child?

A parent or guardian who has the corresponding pager to your child's badge number that you received upon check-in may pick up your child.

Q: Can you change my child's diaper?

We prefer that the parent or caregiver change the child's diaper before or after the gathering. There is a changing pad available in the nursery and Nursing Mother's Room. We do change diapers in the nursery when parents indicate that is okay. For children older than nursery age, we will page you when there is need for a diaper change. For the 3-8 year olds, we offer a potty break part-way through the gathering for those who are fully potty trained.

Q: Are snacks provided?

We provide gluten-free snacks (Rice Chex) during a designated snack time for the 1 and 2 year old class. We do not provide snacks for the other age groups.

Q: When should I pick up my child?

You are welcome to pick them up for communion and family worship or at the close of the gathering.

Q: Can I stay in the classroom with my child?

We prefer that you either leave your child with us or take them to the Sunday gathering, but if you feel it's appropriate for a specific Sunday or to help your child acclimate, you're welcome to stay.

Q: Can my child stay with me in the Sunday gathering?

Yes! In fact, we believe the most beneficial thing for your children is to sit, listen, and worship alongside their parent or caregiver. Please let us know if you would like age-appropriate resources to help you disciple your children throughout the gathering. We want to partner with you in this!

CHILDREN TO VOLUNTEER RATIOS

As we continue to grow, we want to strive as a ministry to make displaying and declaring the glory of God to your kids and to you as families our primary goal. One of the practical ways that we get to do this is making sure all the children in our care are safe, well-cared for, and in an environment where they can joyfully learn about our great God and King! The policy that we have in place to help make this possible uses specific volunteer to child ratios for each age group. These ratios are based on DCC's insurance guidelines and best practices from other churches.

The ratios we use are as follows:

- Nursery: 1:3 Adult to Child ratio
- 1-2 Year Olds: 1:4 Adult to Child ratio
- 3-8 Year Olds: 1:6 Adult to Child ratio

In order to clearly communicate this, we will have signs posted on each of the classrooms stating the number of volunteers serving in that classroom and the corresponding capacity. When the capacity limit is reached that classroom will be considered full and will not be able to take any more children. We will post a sign at check-in when a classroom is closed in order to make it clear.

If at anytime you have additional questions or concerns, please email us at kids@downtowncornerstone.org.